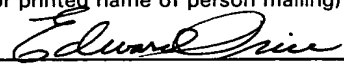


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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 6 of this paper.

Manfred GERRESHEIM et al.
Filed Herewith
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

An Abstract of the Disclosure begins on page 12 of this paper and is provided on a separate sheet in the Appendix.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 13 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including the Abstract is attached following page 13 of this paper.